

ORIGIN NEA-00

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B5

E80

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	EEB-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DNI-00
	DODE-00	DOT-00	WHA-00	PERC-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00
	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00	H-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	VCIE-00
	DCP-00	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00
	PM-00	P-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	IRM-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	ASDS-00	CBP-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SCA-00	CARC-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	/000R		

029082

SOURCE: DISKETTE.051839

DRAFTED BY: NEA/IR:TMSTANDAERT -- 01/23/2007 202-647-2569

APPROVED BY: NEA:JAJEFFREY

L:JBELLINGER WHA:DRAFT NSC:DRAFT

DEFENSE:DRAFT CIA:DRAFT DOJ:DRAFT

S/ES-O:UEPITTS

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION:

S/CT, WHA, NEA, NEA/IR, EUR

-----8C617E 080510Z /38

O 080459Z MAR 07

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DUBAI IMMEDIATE

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029082

SIPDIS

USDOJ FOR DIRECTOR INTERPOL-USNCB

NSC FOR JUAN ZARATE, JOSE CARDENAS, AND GREG GATJANIS

FBI FOR CTD IRAN-HIZBALLAH UNIT AND OIO AMERICAS UNIT

PARIS PASS TO APP LYON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/22/2016

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

DECLASSIFY AFTER: 7 MAR 2026

DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2009 200705645

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

TAGS: IR, AR, LE, PGOV, PREL, FBI, PTER, KJUS ASEC, PRT,
KTFN, KISL, KIRF, OAS, IT, UK, FR, GM

SUBJECT:

B1

Ref: A. BUENOS AIRES 46 B. 2006 BUENOS AIRES 2749 and
previous

Classified By: Under Secretary Nicholas Burns for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (U) This is an action request; please see paragraphs
2, 3, 4, 5, and 12.

(U) SUMMARY

B1

B1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

B1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

B1

REPORTING DEADLINE

6. (U) Embassy should report results of efforts by

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

cable to WHA/BSC - Drew Blakeney and NEA/IR - Sean Misko no later than March 9, 2007. Please caption cables "SIPDIS" and include the IR and PTER tags. We appreciate posts' assistance with this important demarche.

BACKGROUND

7. (U) On July 18, 1994, Argentina suffered its worst terrorist attack, when the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) was bombed, killing 85 and wounding more than 150. The attack came two years after a terrorist attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, which left 29 dead and destroyed the building. The U.S. has supported an investigation against the individuals involved for over 12 years.

8. (U) On October 25, 2006, an Argentine special prosecutor issued a formal investigative report on the terrorist bombing of AMIA. On November 9, 2006 Argentine federal judge Rodolfo Canicoba Corral issued arrest warrants against Iran's former President and current chairman of the Expediency Council Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, former Foreign Minister and current Khamenei advisor Ali Akbar Velayati, former Minister of Intelligence and current Assembly of Experts member Ali Fallahijan, former IRGC Commander and current Expediency Council member Mohsen Rezai, former Qods Force leader and current Deputy Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi, former Ambassador of Iran (Buenos Aires) Hadi Soleimanpour, former Iranian Embassy (Buenos Aires) Cultural Attache Mohsen Rabbani, and former third secretary of the Iranian Embassy Ahmed Reza Asghari (a.k.a. Mohsen Randjbaran). The report named Hizballah terrorist leader Imad Mughniyah as well. (FYI - In addition to being wanted in connection with the AMIA bombing, Mughniyah also is the subject of an Interpol Red Notice (requested by GOA) for the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. Further, on December 27, 2006, Interpol issued a Red Notice, at USNCB's request, for Mughniyah for his role in the 1985 hijacking of TWA flight 847. The Red Notice is based on Mughniyah's federal indictment in U.S. District Court District of Columbia for conspiracy to commit aircraft piracy and take hostages, murder, hostage taking, and aircraft piracy.)

9. (U) On November 16, 2006 the GOA sent applications for the issuance of Red Notices to the International Criminal Police Organization ("Interpol") seeking the assistance of the other 185 Interpol member countries in

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

bringing the charged individuals to justice. The GOI challenged the Argentine application for Red Notices as politically motivated and also threatened to level tit-for-tat indictments of Argentine officials involved in the AMIA case. Interpol agreed to hold issuance of Red Notices in abeyance until each side could explain its position. GOA and Iranian government officials met in Lyon, France, on January 22, to present their perspectives on the case. After hearing GOA and GOI presentations, the Interpol Secretariat deferred action on the AMIA Red Notice applications to the Interpol Executive Committee which will meet March 13-16, in Lyon.

10. (SBU) The Interpol General Counsel has since recommended not issuing Red Notices for three defendants. The notices against Rafsanjani and Velayati are not being issued in light of the head of state immunity. The notice against Soleimanpour is not being issued because an earlier denial by the UK of a GOA extradition request for him demonstrated that there was insufficient evidence. Proceeding with a Red Notice under such circumstances would unnecessarily put Interpol into a political conflict with its members. The GOA has informed us that it is prepared to concur in these recommendations.

B1

UNCLASSIFIED

13. (U) Either country taking issue with a decision of the Executive Committee may petition the Interpol General Assembly, meeting in Morocco in November 2007, for a final and decisive vote on the issue.

14. (U) A Red Notice is an international "wanted" notice that provides information on the identification of fugitives charged with or convicted of serious crimes. Red Notices are issued by Interpol in Lyon at the request of one of the 186 Interpol member countries. The country initiating the notice commits to seeking the provisional arrest and extradition of the fugitive in question should he or she be located. Prior to issuance, the Interpol General Secretariat (IPSG) reviews each proposed Red Notice to ensure compliance with the Interpol Constitution. In particular, the General Secretariat reviews the Red Notice application to ensure compliance with Article 3 of the Interpol Constitution, which prohibits Interpol from engaging in activities of "a political, military, religious, or racial character."

15. (U) Additional historical background: Interpol issued Red Notices in November 2003 for 12 individuals implicated in the AMIA case, but the GOI complained of investigative irregularities by the Argentine judge involved in the earlier investigation of the bombing and the issuance of the warrants upon which the Red Notices were based. Based on the GOI's complaint, the Interpol Executive Committee cancelled the Red Notices in September 2005. On September 21, 2005, the GOA

UNCLASSIFIED

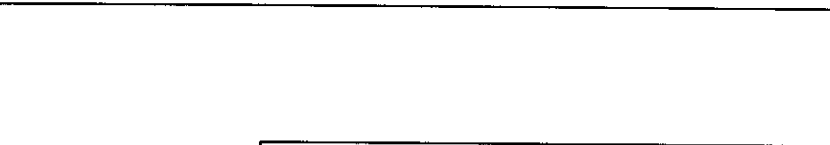
petitioned the Interpol General Assembly then meeting in Berlin to reinstate the Red Notices, but the General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to support the Executive Committee's decision to cancel the notices. A new prosecutor and judge have been leading a new investigation over the past two years. Based on their more complete and professional investigation, they have issued new indictments and arrest warrants now under consideration by Interpol.

POINTS OF CONTACT

16. (U) Please contact the following individuals by email for any further background information or talking points on any aspect of the demarche to meet our objectives: WHA - Drew Blakeney/Caroline Croft, NEA/IR - Sean Misko/Tim Standaert, S/CT - Arnold Sierra/Patrick Worman, L/LEI - Emily Daughtry.

PUBLIC POSTURE

17. (SBU)



B5

If asked by press or others about USG position, posts can, on the record:

-- Acknowledge that USG strongly supports Argentina's efforts to permit Red Notices to be delivered for certain present and former Iranian officials in this AMIA case.

-- We support the Jewish Community of Buenos Aires.

-- In February, both AG Gonzales and U/S Burns assured AMIA leaders that we would support justice in this case.

-- The attack on AMIA was a vicious act of terrorism. Argentina has conducted a comprehensive investigation and believes that present and former Iranian officials were behind this act of murder. We support their efforts to see that those responsible for this terrorist act are brought to Justice.

-- Posts should not/not get into a public discussion of any immunity or related issues that might be raised.

(If necessary, other questions can be referred back to

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Washington for consideration.)
RICE

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED